

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: **Yasushige NAKAMURA, et al.**

Serial No.: **Not Yet Assigned**
(Continuation of PCT/JP00/01678)

Filed: **November 14, 2001**

For: **ELECTROPHOTOGRAPHIC TONER AND IMAGE FORMING METHOD**

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Date: November 14, 2001

Sir:

Prior to calculation of the filing fee and examination of this application, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 9 and 19 as follows:

9. (Amended) An image forming method according to claim 6, wherein the energy of the flashtube is within a range from 0.5 to 3.0 J/cm² and the duration of the flash is within a range from 500 to 3,000 μ s in the flash fixing step.